



Last Updated: 03/09/2022

Annual Review of Phase I of the Virginia Medicaid Preferred Drug List (PDL) Program and PDL Quicklist - Effective January 3, 2005

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the annual review of Phase I of Virginia Medicaid's Preferred Drug List (PDL) Program, effective January 3, 2005. As you are aware, the PDL is a list of preferred drugs by therapeutic class for which payment without requiring Prior Authorization (PA) will be allowed in conjunction with the clinical criteria for each respective drug class. In the designated classes, drug products that do not appear on the PDL will be subject to PA. Because there are provisions for a 72-hour supply of necessary medications, this initiative will not cause an individual to be without an appropriate drug therapy.

The PDL is effective for the Medicaid, MEDALLION, and FAMIS-Plus fee-for-service populations. The PDL **does not** apply to recipients enrolled in a Managed Care Organization (MCO) or FAMIS enrollees. DMAS implemented the PDL program to provide clinically effective and safe drugs to its clients in a cost-effective manner. Your continued support of this program is critical to its success.

The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) implemented Phase I of the PDL in January 2004, with 13 therapeutic drug classes. The Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee recently conducted its annual review of these 13 therapeutic drug classes, and minimal changes were made. An updated list of the preferred drugs within each Phase I class is attached with this memo.

The therapeutic classes that are the focus of the PDL's Phase-I drugs are:

- Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs)
- H2 Antagonists



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- Nasal Steroids
- Second Generation Antihistamines (Low-Sedating or Non-Sedating)
- Selective COX-2 Inhibitors and NSAIDS
- HMG CoA Reductase Inhibitors (Statins)
- Sedative Hypnotics
- Beta Adrenergics
- Inhaled Corticosteroids
- Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors (ACE Inhibitors)
- Angiotensin II Receptor Blocking Agents (ARBs)
- Calcium Channel Blockers
- Beta blockers

The changes to the PDL are as follows:

ADDITIONS TO PREFERRED STATUS

ANGIOTENSIN RECEPTOR ANTAGONIST

Hyzaar and Cozaar

NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMATORY - COX-2 INHIBITORS

Celebrex

QUINOLONES - 2ND GENERATION

Ciprofloxacin

CHANGES TO NON-PREFERRED STATUS

NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMATORY - COX-2 INHIBITORS



Bextra

To access the complete list of pharmaceutical products included on the Virginia PDL, please visit <http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/pharm-home.htm> or <http://virginia.fhsc.com>.

CLINICAL EDITS FOR COX-2 INHIBITORS

The P&T Committee has decided to keep in place the clinical edits for the COX-2 Inhibitor therapeutic drug class. The purpose of this edit is to prevent inappropriate use of COX-2 inhibitors in patients **without** indications for use as well as to provide access to these drugs in a cost-effective manner. Additionally, the edits are expected to help reduce the potential for adverse effects associated with chronic, high-dose COX-2 use. The P&T Committee will be reviewing this edit again at their next meeting. Any changes will be communicated in a future memo.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION (PA) PROCESS

A message indicating that a drug requires a PA will be displayed at Point of Sale (POS) when a Non-Preferred drug is dispensed. Pharmacists should contact the patient's provider requesting them to initiate the PA process. Prescribers can initiate PA requests by letter, by faxing the attached form to 800-932-6651, or by contacting the First Health Services Clinical Call Center at **800-932-6648** (available 24 hours a day, seven days a week). Faxed and mailed PA requests will be responded to within 24 hours of receipt. A copy of the PA form is attached and is also available at <http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/pharm-home.htm> or at <http://virginia.fhsc.com>. The PDL criteria for PA purposes are also available on both websites.



PREFERRED DRUG LIST (PDL) - 72-HOUR-SUPPLY PROCESSING POLICY

The PDL Program provides a process where the pharmacist may dispense a 72-hour supply of a Non-Preferred, prescribed medication if the physician is not available to consult with the pharmacist (after hours, on weekends, or during holidays), AND the pharmacist, in his professional judgment consistent with current standards of practice, feels that the patient's health would be compromised without the benefit of the drug. The 72-hour supply will require a phone call by the pharmacy provider to First Health Services Corporation (FHSC) at **800-932-6648** (available 24 hours a day, seven days a week) for processing.

The patient will be charged a co-payment applicable for this 72-hour supply (partial fill). However, a co-payment will not be charged for the completion fill. The prescription must be processed as a "partial" and "completion" fill.

For unit-of-use drugs (i.e. inhalers, drops, etc.), the entire unit should be dispensed and appropriate action taken to prevent similar situations in the future.

PREFERRED DRUG LIST (PDL) - 72-HOUR-SUPPLY DISPENSING FEE PROCESS

Pharmacy providers are entitled to an additional \$3.75 dispensing fee when filling the completion of a 72-hour-supply prescription for a Non-Preferred drug. To receive the additional dispensing fee, the pharmacist must submit the 72-hour supply as a partial fill and, when submitting the claim for the completion fill, enter "03" in the "Level of Service" (data element 418-DI) field. The additional \$3.75 dispensing fee is ONLY available (one time per prescription) to the pharmacist after dispensing the completion fill of a Non-Preferred drug when a partial (72-hour supply) prescription was previously filled.

Any questions regarding the PDL process can be referred to First Health Services Corporation (FHSC) at **800-932-6648** (available 24 hours a day, seven days a week).



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PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANT (PDA) DOWNLOAD FOR PDL QUICKLIST

There are two ways to download the PDL list for PDA users. On the DMAS website (www.dmas.virginia.gov), there is a link that enables providers to download the PDL Quicklist to their PDAs. To access this link, please click on "Pharmacy," then "Pharmacy Initiatives," then

"PDL Quicklist PDA Format." This page will have complete directions for the download and HotSync operations. If you are an ePocrates® user, you may also access Virginia Medicaid's PDL through the ePocrates® formulary link at www.epocrates.com. ePocrates® is a leading drug information software for handheld computers (PDAs) and desktop computers. A large number of healthcare providers use this software in their daily practice. For more information and product registration, please visit their website at www.epocrates.com.

To download the Virginia Medicaid PDL to your PDA, please follow these steps:

1. Ensure that you have a version of ePocrates Rx® installed on your PDA.
2. Connect to the Internet and go to www.epocrates.com.
3. Click the "Add Formularies" link at the top of the page.
4. Log in to the website using your user name and password.
5. Select "Virginia" from the "Select State" menu.
6. Select "Virginia Medicaid-PDL" under "Available Formularies."
7. Click on "Add to My List" and then click on "Done."
8. Auto Update your PDA to install the "Virginia Medicaid-PDL" to your PDA.

"PREFERRED DRUG LIST (PDL)/PRIOR AUTHORIZATION HELPLINE"

The First Health Services Clinical Call Center can be reached at **800-932-6648** (available 24 hours a day, seven days a week) to answer your questions regarding the PDL, COX-2 edits, Threshold, Pro-DUR, and PA requests. PA requests can be



Department of Medical Assistance Services
600 East Broad Street
Suite 1300
Richmond, VA 23219

<https://dmas.virginia.gov>

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initiated by letter, by faxing the enclosed form to 800-932-6651, or by contacting the First Health Services Clinical Call Center at **800-932-6648**. PA requests can also be mailed to:

First Health Services
Corporation 4300 Cox
Road

Glen Allen, VA 23060

ATTN: MAP Department/VA Medicaid

Additional information and Provider Manual updates will be sent as necessary. Comments regarding this program may be emailed to the P&T Committee at pdlinput@dmas.virginia.gov.

ELIGIBILITY AND CLAIMS STATUS INFORMATION

DMAS offers a web-based Internet option to access information regarding Medicaid eligibility, claims status, check status, service limits, prior authorization, and pharmacy prescriber identification information. The website address to use to enroll for access to this system is <http://virginia.fhsc.com>. The MediCall voice response system will provide the same information and can be accessed by calling 800-884-9730 or 800-772-9996. Both options are available at no cost to the provider.

COPIES OF MANUALS

DMAS publishes electronic and printable copies of its Provider Manuals and Medicaid Memoranda on the DMAS website at www.dmas.virginia.gov (***please note the new DMAS website address***). Refer to the Provider Column to find Medicaid and SLH Provider Manuals or click on "Medicaid Memos to Providers" to



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view Medicaid Memoranda. The Internet is the most efficient means to receive and review current provider information. If you do not have access to the Internet or would like a paper copy of a manual, you can order these by contacting Commonwealth-Martin at 804-780-0076. A fee will be charged for the printing and mailing of the manuals and manual updates requested.

"HELPLINE"

The "HELPLINE" is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on state holidays, to answer questions. The "HELPLINE" numbers are:

1-804-786-6273	Richmond area and out-of-state long distance
1-800-552-8627	All other areas (in-state, toll-free long distance)

Please remember that the "HELPLINE" is for provider use only. Please have your Medicaid provider identification number available when you call.